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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BOGOTA 003286

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SNAR](#) [MASS](#) [PREF](#) [EAID](#) [KJUS](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: PLAN COLOMBIA IMPLEMENTATION ROUND-UP, MARCH, 2005

Classified By: Ambassador William B. Wood for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (U) The following is an update of Plan Colombia activities reported during March, 2005.

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DOJ/DEA  
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2. (SBU) To date US \$11.3 million has been invested in the purchase of hardware, software, monitoring suites, the vetting process and maintenance for Operation Esperanza, Colombia's cellular switch based intercept project. The first US \$4.9 million was received from Plan Colombia in FY 2000. This technology is the first of its kind in South America and will give Colombian and U.S. authorities the ability to lawfully intercept Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA), Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA), and Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) cellular calls associated with narcotics and related offenses.

3. (U) For the past two years DEA Bogota has been working to donate surplus firearms and ballistic vests to the GOC. As of March, DEA has donated a total of US \$485,073 worth of equipment through the following agencies:

Colombian National Police (CNP)  
1,221 weapons worth US \$330,125

CNP  
515 ballistic vests worth US \$96,200

Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS)  
43 weapons worth US \$4,554

Cuerpo Tecnico de Inteligencia (CTI)  
25 weapons worth US \$2,925

Instituto Nacional Penitenciario y Carcelario de Colombia (INPEC)  
122 weapons worth US \$21,474

Colombian Navy  
71 weapons worth US \$17,640

DOS/NAS  
48 weapons worth US \$13,155

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DOJ/JSRP  
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4. (U) DOJ's Justice Sector Reform Program (JSRP) carried out the following activities during the month of March:

-- Trial Advocacy training for 120 prosecutors and 60 police investigators in Medellin and Bogota;

-- Criminal Trial Advocacy training for 50 judges in Medellin;

-- Investigator/Witness training for 800 police investigators in Bogota, Medellin, Pereira, Cali, Yopal, Tunja, Ibague and Villavicencio;

-- Patrol officer training for 30 police trainers in Cali;

-- Expert witness training for 25 forensic laboratory examiners from the Fiscalia, DAS, CNP and Medicina Legal in Bogota;

-- Ethics and Transparency police training for 30 police officers in Bogota (DAS, CNP, CTI);

-- Money Laundering training for Judicial Police for 30 investigators from the CNP, DAS, CTI and Unidad de Informacion y Analisis Financiero (UIAF) in Bogota;

-- Observational visit to Washington, D.C. for Deputy Prosecutor General (Vice Fiscal), to observe court proceedings, evidence rooms, attorney office organization and case management.

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MILGROUP:FMS DELAYS  
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15. (C) The number of viable Colombian Air Force (COLAF) aircraft missions remains troublingly low, due in large part to delays in receipt of repair parts. Several pending Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases are moving very slowly through system, and MILGROUP does not know their exact status. For example, a US \$2 million spare parts case for Schweizer SA2-37 intelligence aircraft has been awaiting a new foreign disclosure approval for six weeks, even though the equipment on order (i.e., Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) components) has been purchased before. MILGROUP will request SOUTHCOM assistance to determine the cause of delays in processing parts cases.

16. (C) Initial feedback from the Colombian Air Force (COLAF) on Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) indicates the current combat aircraft are not internally or electrically configured to handle JDAM munitions. Intelligence information and targeting capabilities have to be enhanced in order to deliver the right kind of information to program the smart bombs. So far, COLAF has not decided if it will spend the US \$234 million it has available to purchase aircraft or precision weapons systems. MILGROUP will offer COLAF information on laser-guided systems which will improve accuracy, do not require aircraft reconfiguration, and cost less.

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NAS  
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17. (U) Eradication and Interdiction: March was the best month ever for aerial eradication with 24,374 hectares of coca sprayed. The eradication program has sprayed 58,173 hectares of coca in the first three months of 2005, including 44,814 hectares of coca in the department of Narino alone, making 2005 Q1 the best quarter for aerial eradication on record. T-65 aircraft also sprayed 821 hectares of opium poppy during the first of three poppy spraying campaigns for 2005. This combined with the 151 hectares of manually eradicated poppy gives a total of 972 hectares eradicated to date in 2005, meeting one third of the joint CNP and Embassy goal of eradicating 3,000 hectares in 2005. Drug interdiction continues apace with eradication: GOC security forces seized more than 50 tons of cocaine and destroyed more than 50 cocaine hydrochloride laboratories in 2005 Q1.

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18. (U) CHF International, the implementing partner for the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), started a temporary employment program for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mocoa, Putumayo Department, on March 15. The program will provide 150 months of temporary employment for recently displaced persons. Most recently displaced IDPs will receive two months of temporary employment.

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RSO  
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19. (U) Anti Kidnapping Program (AKI): The eighth Crisis Response Training (CRT) course was completed at the DS/ATA CRT training facility at the CNP tactical training base in Silbate. Assistant Colombian instructors taught and presented some of the course material. Post received a formal course offering for CRT number nine from DS/ATA.

10. (U) VIP Personal Protection Training (PPT) Program: The VIP PPT Advisors finished a training class for the protective detail for the Mayor of Bogota. Plans continue to conduct various assessment visits with protective details. Additional sustanment and refresher courses are due to start in April.

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USAID  
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11. (U) On March 18, President Uribe, USAID Director Deal and the Minister of the Interior and Justice, Sabas Pretelt de la Vega, inaugurated USAID's 38th Justice House (Casa de Justicia) in Monteria (Cordoba). Justice Houses are multi-agency, one-stop centers that provide formal justice and informal dispute resolution services. They operate in poor neighborhoods of large cities and in rural municipalities, serving those who would otherwise not have access to judicial services. The Justice Houses Program promotes more responsive, participatory and accountable democracy in Colombia. To date, over 2.8 million cases have been handled through the 37 Justice Houses. By the end of FY2005, a total of 42 Justice Houses are anticipated to be in place nationwide.

12. (U) On March 11, the first group of 144 trainees graduated from the "Entra 21" program supporting Internally

Displaced Persons (IDPs) from the cities of Cartagena, Arjona and Turbaco (Bolívar). This program is co-funded by USAID and the Inter-American Development Bank. The program trains disadvantaged young people (ages 18 through 25) in information technology skills and helps them to either (a) locate a job in their field of training or (b) develop business plans for establishing micro-enterprises in local markets. To date, 17 percent of the graduates have been placed in the labor market and 20 percent are preparing business plans to create micro-enterprises. USAID's contribution of nearly US \$183,000 to the overall US \$489,000 project cost leveraged up to 167 percent in additional funding from the IDB and local private resources. The program is part of USAID's effort to support the prevention of recruitment into illegal armed groups (IAGs).

13. (U) On March 11, USAID's Alternative Development Forestry Program signed a CPS 211 million (roughly \$80,000) donation agreement with Red Ecolsierra, a local NGO, to strengthen the agroforestry component of the GOC's "Familias Guardabosques" (FG) program in the Sierra Nevada mountains. The donation will foster activities to make the FG program sustainable, will provide technical assistance to the beneficiaries, and will strengthen community organizational structures in order to develop private sector linkages. Under this grant, 100 FGs will develop 150 hectares to produce coffee, cacao and forestry products in the next 18 months, providing alternative and sustainable economic growth opportunities to rural populations that are vulnerable to illicit crop production. To date over 31,400 hectares of natural forest have been managed through the Forestry Program in Bajo Magdalena, Medio and Bajo Atrato-Uraba, the Pacific Coast of Narino, and Northeastern Antioquia.

14. (U) Support for the new criminal accusatory system: The USAID Justice Program launched in Manizales its second Public Defense Pilot Office in January to enhance the capacity of key actors to implement the new criminal accusatory reform in Manizales. The Bogota office has received wide acclaim throughout the justice sector. The Justice Project is also remodeling and equipping Public Defense work stations in four decentralized judicial processing centers within Bogota (formerly known as Unidades de Reaccion Inmediata, "URIs", in the Fiscalía). Remodeling and construction of three more trial courtrooms in Bogota was completed in March, with the sound systems to be installed in April, adding to the 45 already established to date with USAID assistance.

15. (U) To highlight the characteristics and benefits for citizens of the new accusatory system, two television information spots began to be aired nationally (one of a general nature, focusing on the transition of the entire system; and a second spot focusing more specifically on Public Defense). In addition, a one and a half hour television show has been produced in conjunction with the Javeriana University, depicting a simulated trial in the new system. Counterpart reaction to the first version has been favorable, and final edits are being discussed in order to begin airing the show.

16. (U) Technical assistance to the Inter-institutional Commission on the Implementation of the Accusatorial System continues to be spearheaded by USAID. The project is coordinating with the Commission on a training schedule this year for judges and public defenders to prepare professionals in the districts entering the system in 2006. This Commission is also finalizing approval of two training manuals drafted with USAID project support (one for judges, and the other a more general manual for all justice sector officials).

WOOD